

Howard and Effie Fleck House
312 Logan Blvd.
Llysven Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5902

HABS
PA,
7: ALTO,
130 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOWARD AND EFFIE FLECK HOUSE

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Location: 312 Logan Blvd.

Date of Erection: 1907

Description: This two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame house is an atypical brick-veneered example of a signature type in Llyswen: a basic foursquare overlaid with eclectic Queen Anne elaborations. Fanciful touches, like the two-story tower with bell-shaped roof and finial, and cresting and knobs on the hipped roof and gabled dormers, are balanced by the pared down classicism of the columned porch and Palladian window dormer. The brick surface is unelaborated, in typical foursquare fashion, except for the oval stained-glass window on the second story. Both the sidelighted front door and the front parlor window have leaded-glass transom windows. Several of the bowed panes in the tower windows have been replaced by plexiglass. On the interior, the stairway is original, but the floor plan has been altered extensively.

History: Howard Fleck, a buyer for the W. F. Gable & Company department store, built this house in 1907. The piecemeal effect of decorative combinations, like the front parlor's juxtaposition of lacy leaded glass and massive stone fireplace, and the mix of stained-glass patterns and styles throughout the house, suggest that it was builder-designed but finished with client-selected details and fixtures. The Flecks sold their home for \$6,500 in 1917 to Mary Pierce, wife of real estate broker Albert L. Pierce. She also acquired the lot directly behind the house (lot 15, block 10) a month later, and the neighboring lot and house at 314 Logan Blvd. the following year. Pierce only retained portions of these properties adjacent to her original lot, and sold the house and enlarged property in 1929 to florist and landscape gardener Eugene S. Meyers for \$11,000. Meyers lost the house to creditors in 1939. It was a rental property for a few years, and changed hands several times before Victor and Happiness Notopoulos acquired it in 1950 and made it their home for fifteen years. He was the manager of the Capitol Theater in Altoona. Antique dealers David and Margaret Donnelly bought the property in 1960 for \$12,700, then sold it three years later but continued to live in it until 1970, when it was sold to Alfred Bernardin, an administrator for the Blair County Mental Health Center. The Donnellys then re-purchased the house in late 1970 and occupied it for six more years. They are probably responsible for much of the modern interior alterations. In the mid 1980s this was the home of the mayor of Altoona, David Jannetta, and his wife, Heather. The present owners bought the house in 1988.

Sources: Maps: 1909, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 164/312, 247/674, 254/98, 249/546, 389/300, 449/47, 507/61, 574/81, 618/100, 838/498, 876/454, 900/182, 911/489, 992/808, 1109/167, 1155/459. Interview: Philip and Sandra Fry, 312 Logan Blvd., July 22, 1989.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.